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NATIONAL SECURITY'S NEW INSIDERS

By Michael Wright

WHERE IS SACEUR?" demands a voice from the command post.

All hell is breaking loose in the Balkans, the Persian Gulf is ablaze with burning tankers, and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe — Saceur — is AWOL. He turns up, breathless, 10 minutes late, explaining that his pregnant wife had a false alarm.

It is crisis-simulation time at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.

And once Saceur has taken his place at a crowded table bedecked with miniature national flags of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the game resumes.

Here in the university "war room" four floors above Massachusetts Avenue, in the heart of Washington's diplomatic quarter, the uniforms of the day include pin-stripe suits and sweatshirts. In real life, the 18 players are a cross section of the Washington scene. One is an assistant naval attaché at the Spanish Embassy. Another is an American Foreign Service officer soon to be posted to Europe. A third covers the Defense Department for a news magazine. Most of the rest are graduate students working for their

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**More than ever
before, civilian
specialists are
involved in war-
and-peace games.**

Ph.D's. An instructor and four students who helped draft the 26-page game plan preside at their slightly elevated command post.

The player taking the role of the Greek Ambassador bristles when he hears that American infantry units have been alerted for deployment from the United States to the Persian Gulf. Greece needs those troops, he complains, in view of the just-disclosed Bulgarian invasion of Yugoslavia. At the halfway break, the "diplomats" and "generals" huddle over coffee and chocolate-chip cookies, trying to reach informal agreement on

actions that would insure allied comity and good grades. The control group concocts a "destabilizing element" for the scenario: The Soviet Union is interfering with flights into West Berlin and moving troops toward

the German frontier. A little something to make the class improvise in a hurry.

Almost any week, similar scenes take place in campus war rooms across the country. For these are boom times for the national-security community — that eminently American phenomenon that combines civilian expertise with government dollars to produce a flow of studies and recommendations for the better use of American military power.

In most other countries with substantial military forces, such planning is left to the government's career bureaucracy. In the United States these days, it is the 2,000 or so specialists

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